

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. Examiner's indication of allowed claims 12-22 is acknowledged and appreciated.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been introduced which requires further consideration or search. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings have been objected to due as lacking certain claimed features. In response, replacement sheets for corrected drawings to Figs. 1 and 3 have been submitted therewith.

OBJECTION TO THE ABSTRACT

The objection to the phrase "is provided" in the Abstract has been addressed through deletion thereof.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103


Claims 1-5 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Snyder* (USP 3,118,242). Additionally, claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Snyder*.

In the present application as now set forth in independent claim 1 from which other rejected claims respectively depend, the launch tube is positioned within the air vehicle, and the free floating piston is positioned within the launch tube to reduce noise during launch.

The Examiner asserts that the launch tube 13 in *Snyder* can contain a small folded aircraft, at least in theory. Indeed, the spear 19 disclosed in *Snyder* is designed to fit inside the barrel (see Fig. 3 and column 2, lines 30-31 of *Snyder*). However, such assertion means that *Snyder* teaches away from having the air vehicle positioned externally to the launch tube. Additionally, *Snyder* simply does not disclose, teach or suggest a free floating piston which is designed to reduce noise during launch.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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